

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 SAM-01 /049 W

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R 040300Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0998

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, IN, NP

SUBJECT: CORONATION PASSES PEACEFULLY AND WITHOUT INCIDENT

1. DESPITE EARLIER FEARS THAT NEPALI CONGRESS PARTY OR OTHER EXTREMIST GROUPS WOULD USE THE CORONATION AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO LAUNCH TERRORIST ACTIONS AGAINST/THE GOVERNMENT, THE CORONATION PASSED PEACEFULLY WITHOUT UNTOWARD INCIDENT OF WHICH WE ARE AWARE. THOUSANDS OF NEPALIS AND FOREIGNERS LINED PARADE ROUTE AND HAD OPPORTUNITY TO WATCH PUBLIC EVENTS OR CORONATION.

2. HMG SECURITY FORCES (ARMY AND POLICE) WERE CLEARLY GEARED UP FOR THE OCCASIONOM NEWLY OUTFITTED WITH JAPANESE MOTORCYCLES AND ENGLISH WALKIE-TALKIES, THE POLICE WERE EVER-PRESENT AND APPEARED TO HAVE TAKEN THEIR ROLE AS SECURITY FORCE VERY SERIOUSLY. ONE EMBASSY OFFICER, FOR EXAMPLE, NOTICED THAT ALL DRAINS AND MANHOLES NEAR THE TWO HOTELS HOUSING VIP GUESTS HAD BEEN REMOVED, INSPECTED AND CEMENTED BACK INTO PLACE. EVERYONE ENTERING THE VALLEY IN RECENT WEEKS HAD BEEN LIABLE TO A THOROUGH SEARCH, AND THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS HAS A FEW STORIES TO TELL OF CHANCE ENCOUNTERS WITH ARMED PATROLS THROUGHOUT THE CITY IN THE NIGHTS PRECEDING THE CORONATION. ALL THESE PRECAUTIONS, IT SHOULD BE NOTED, WER UNDERTAKEN WITHOUT RESPORT TO NEW REGULATIONS, DESPITE THE RUMORS OF A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CURFEW WHICH NEVER MATERIALIZED. MUCH OF THE CREDIT FOR

THE SMOOTH POLICE ORGANIZATION CAN BE TAKEN BY A BRITISH EXPERT BROUGHT TO NEPAL LATE LAST YEAR. ALTHOUGH HE WAS INITIALLY FRUSTRATED BY WHAT HE SAW AS DISINTEREST, AS THE CORONATION APPROACHED HE WAS PLEASED TO NOTE THAT GON AUTHORITIES TOOK HIS ADVICE SERIOUSLY AND PUT IT INTO ACTUAL PRACTICE.

3. AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, THE GOI ALSO COOPERATED TO INSURE PEACEFUL CORONATION BY ENFORCING RESTRICTIONS ON POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF NEPALI CONGRESS PARTY EXILES IN 50 MILE ZONE ALONG NEPALESE BORDER. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME REPORTS THAT IN THE WEEK BEFORE THE EVENT INDIAN POLICE INCREASED SURVEILLANCE ON KEY NCP LEADERS.

4. SECURITY PRECAUTIONS ASIDE, THE TRANQUILITY OF THE CORONATION WAS PROBABLY EQUALLY DUE TO THE DECISION OF THE NCP TO ABSTAIN FROM TERRORIST ACTS. ON THE ONE HAND THE NCP HAD SUFFERED HIGH LOSSES IN THE DECEMBER ATTEMPT TO INFILTRATE A BAND INTO THE SOLU-KHUMBU REGION AND ON THE OTHER, THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE RISK OF ALIENATING ITS FOLLOWERS IN NEPAL BY A DIRECT ATTACK ON THE MONARCHY. NEPALI OFFICIALS WITH WHOM WE HAVE TALKED ARE UNWILLING TO PREDICT WHAT THE FUTURE COURSE OF THE NCP EXTREME WING WILL BE AND FOR THE MOMENT ARE CONTENT THAT NEPAL'S IMAGE WAS UNTARNISHED AT A MOMENT WHEN IT WAS IN THE INTERNATIONAL SPOTLIGHT.

CARGO

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